

MINUTES
MICHIGAN STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING
September 27, 2001
Lansing, Michigan

Meeting noticed in accordance with Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976.

Present: Barton LaBelle, Chairman
 Betty Jean Awrey, Commissioner
 Ted Wahby, Commissioner
 Lowell Jackson, Commissioner
 John Garside, Commissioner

 Charles Krupka, Commission Advisor
 Jerry Jones, Commission Auditor
 Vickie Plummer, Executive Secretary
 Pat Isom, Assistant Attorney General
 Philip Kazmierski, Bureau of Urban and Public Transportation
 Greg Rosine, Director
 Wayne Niles, Bureau of Finance and Administration
 Tom Maki, Chief Operations Officer
 Gary D. Taylor, Bureau of Highway Technical Services
 Louis Lambert, Bureau of Transportation Planning
 Douglas Novak, Office of Governmental Affairs
 Charles Ford, Office of Equal Opportunity
 Jacqueline Shinn, Office of Economic Development
 Ari Adler, Office of Communications
 Doug Couto, Office of Information Management

Absent: Brian Larche, Commissioner

A list of those people who attended the meeting is attached to the official minutes.

Chairman LaBelle called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. in the Bureau of Aeronautics Auditorium, Lansing, Michigan.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman LaBelle announced that Brian Larche, from Escanaba, has been appointed to the Commission by Governor Engler to replace Vice Chairman Jack Gingrass, who has retired.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commission Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Wahby, with support from Commissioner Awrey, to approve the minutes of August 23, 2001, as submitted. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Election of Vice Chairman

It was moved by Commissioner Awrey, with support from Commissioner Jackson, to nominate Commissioner Ted Wahby as Vice Chairman. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

2002 Meeting Schedule

Discussion on the meeting schedule for next year was deferred to the October meeting.

OVERSIGHT

Commission/State Administrative Board Contracts and Agreements (Exhibit A)

Charlie Krupka, Commission Advisor, reported the following changes to Exhibit A. On Items 1 and 2 "Comprehensive Transportation Funds" should read "State Trunkline Funds." In the fourth sentence of Item 24 the words "including loan payback" should be deleted. And, in Item 26 "\$81,580" should read "\$81,570."

Item No. 1 of Exhibit A-4 has been withdrawn.

Phil Kazmierski, Deputy Director, Bureau of Urban and Public Transportation, provided an update on Amtrak ridership/subsidies and on high-speed train issues in response to questions from the Commissioners.

It was then moved by Commissioner Jackson, with support from Commissioner Awrey, to grant approval to the Department to proceed with the contract process. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Bid Letting Pre-Approvals (Exhibit A-1)

It was moved by Vice Chairman Wahby, with support from Commissioner Garside, to grant approval to the Department to proceed with the contract process. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Letting Exceptions (Exhibit A-2)

It was moved by Vice Chairman Wahby, with support from Chairman LaBelle, to grant approval to the Department to proceed with the contract process. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Bid Letting Not Pre-Approved (Exhibit A-4)

It was moved by Commissioner Garside, with support from Commissioner Awrey, to grant approval to the Department to proceed with the contract process. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Contract Adjustments

Gary Taylor, Chief Engineer/Deputy Director, Bureau of Highway Technical Services, reported on the contract extras and overruns, Exhibit B.

It was moved by Vice Chairman Wahby, with support from Commissioner Garside, to approve the contract adjustments. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Six-Month Financial Audit & Internal Audit Follow-Ups (Exhibits C & D)

Vice Chairman Wahby reported he had reviewed both the financial and internal audit follow-ups, and had the opportunity to discuss these issues with the Commission Auditor. The Vice Chairman complimented bureau and division staff who have cleared up their outstanding audit issues, and encouraged staff to continue to complete outstanding audit issues in a timely manner. It was then moved by Vice Chairman Wahby, with support from Commissioner Awrey, to approve the financial audit follow-up as submitted. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goals (Exhibit E)

Charles Ford, Administrator, Office of Equal Opportunity, provided information on the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program participation for federally-assisted and state-funded projects. Mr. Ford then recommended that an overall DBE goal of 11 percent be adopted.

It was moved by Commissioner Jackson, with support from Commissioner Garside, to approve an annual DBE goal of 11 percent as recommended. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Gary Naeyaert, on behalf of the Michigan Road Builders Association (MRBA), expressed the belief that the goal-setting methodology for DBE participation should be based on the identified capacity of the DBE community to actually perform road and bridge work. MRBA is hopeful that capacity and geographic availability of DBE firms will figure more prominently in future goal setting by MDOT. Director Rosine responded that he will review the prequalification procedures with department staff.

PRESENTATIONS

2002 Road and Bridge Program

Denise Jackson, Statewide Planning Division, reported on the road and bridge preservation accomplishments for 2001 moving MDOT toward meeting their pavement goals of 95 percent good freeways and 85 percent good non freeways by 2007. At the end of the 2001 construction program MDOT will have reached 85 percent good freeways and 71 percent good non freeways. MDOT continues to suspend work on holiday and peak traffic weekends, complete work on time and ahead of schedule, and provide public education.

Ms. Jackson further provided information on Build Michigan II and III; the Fiscal Year 2002 road and bridge program, including the major rehabilitation and reconstruction projects scheduled; capital preventive maintenance; capacity improvements; passing relief lanes; and the major new road projects scheduled for 2002. In conclusion, Michigan's 2002 Road and Bridge Program will be \$1.5 billion, with more than 200 bridge improvements, and 1,600 miles of state trunkline improvements.

Commissioner Jackson stated he had the opportunity to attend one of the statewide meetings on the Department's 20-year plan and complimented the Department, and Marsha Small who gave the presentation, on the information provided at those meetings.

Director's Report

Greg Rosine, Director, reported that the September 11 incident affected MDOT in that the State Emergency Operations Center was mobilized and MDOT monitored traffic flow throughout the state and at bridges. In the future, MDOT will be reviewing relative risk assessment for transportation throughout the state, with the help of the state's public and private networking partners.

Governor Engler issued Executive Order 2001-2 creating a new Department of Information Technology, and created a state Chief Information Officer at a cabinet level position, effective October 14, 2001. MDOT has identified 124 department employees that will be assigned to the new department, and a transition team has been established.

MDOT has been working with the construction industries, both concrete and asphalt, trying to expand the Department's commitment to warranties on road construction programs. Currently, there are 89 existing material and workmanship warranties in effect. A written report will be sent to the Commissioners regarding performance warranty strategies and how to evaluate effectiveness of warranties.

The diamond grinding on I-275 should be completed within the next few days, with work being done at night during the week, to keep traffic disruption to a minimum. Once the pavement markings are done, noise readings will be taken.

Regarding the presentation to the Commission last month by Michigan Tech on the RoadSoft initiative and asset management capabilities, the Department has signed a partnering agreement with County Road Association of Michigan for several counties to pilot a program to gather road and pavement condition information to provide a comprehensive database program.

Using the internet, MDOT has run four parallel tests on the electronic bidding system. A security audit has been scheduled for early October, and if necessary, the Department will work with Info Tech to resolve any issues that result from the audit. It is expected that the November 2 letting will be accepted on paper and electronically, with the paper bids ruling. Once the system is proven successful, the electronic portion will rule.

Applications have recently been sent out for the new rail grade crossing program, which is a low-cost program to address safer grade crossings.

MDOT has received two Exemplary Partners Award from the American Association of Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO); one for MDOT's accelerated construction program to deliver 95 percent of announced programs within the first six months of the year; and one for MDOT's team effort to put together the leadership conference. An award was also received for the team that developed Michigan's highway map.

Commissioner Jackson thanked the Director for his report and congratulated the Department on receiving the AASHTO awards.

Chairman LaBelle also noted that the Commission is proud of the Department on receiving recognition for their accomplishments, for their ability to make changes within the Department, and for their ability to provide an accelerated construction program.

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ADJOURNMENT

Chairman LaBelle adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Commission Advisor